



WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Blvd.
Tuesday – January 25, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman Hamade on Tuesday, January 25, at 6:15 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Chairman Hamade led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Hamade, Fisher, Cruz and Robbins.

Commissioners Absent: Nguyen.

Staff Present: Adolfo Ozaeta, Civil Engineering Associate; Corporal Mark Lauderback, Westminster Police Department; and Veronica Johnson, Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of November 30, 2010 were approved by Chairman Hamade, seconded by Vice Chairman Fisher with Commissioner Robbins abstaining (2-1). Motion died due to a lack of majority.

Commissioner Cruz arrived at the dais.

Chairman Hamade moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Cruz with Robbins abstaining (3-1).

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 69-243, Staff Proposal to Install Parking Restrictions on the east side of Olive Street at Plaza Street and Park Street.

T.C. 69-243 Olive Street

Mr. Ozaeta began with introducing Corporal Mark Lauderback, sitting in for Sergeant Finley. Corporal Lauderback informed the Commission that he has been with the Police Department for 17 years and is currently assigned to overseeing the Traffic Enforcement Grant.

Mr. Ozaeta moved forward with the first item by providing background information from last November regarding Blessed Sacrament Church's request for a crosswalk. At that time, the Commission supported staff's recommendation to deny the request for the crosswalk. Blessed Sacrament Church appealed the Commission's decision and the item was brought forth at the December City Council meeting. The Mayor and City Council approved for installation of the crosswalk. On December 18, 2010, the Public Works Department instructed their maintenance contractor to install a new crosswalk and modify the existing crosswalk. Additionally, staff installed and updated the signage at subject location. Staff also identified that vehicles parking too close to the crosswalks would obscure the visibility of pedestrians and therefore, installed red curb markings.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was for the Commission to approve the recommendation for the installation of parking restrictions on the east side of Olive Street at Plaza Street and Park Street.

MOTION

Chairman Hamade moved to approve staff's recommendation to approve the request, seconded by Vice Chairman Fisher.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Nguyen being absent.

T.C. 81-106

6502 Humboldt

The second item for discussion was T.C. 81-106, Request for Parking Restrictions at 6502 Humboldt Avenue.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that staff had received a written request from Phong Xuan Nguyen and had been in contact with him for a period of time. Mr. Nguyen is requesting 28 feet of parking restrictions in front of his residence due to his concerns with sight visibility from his driveway, vehicles parked for long extended times, and his trash not being able to be collected in front of his home.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that many households own more than one vehicle and parking on the streets has become a commodity in the City. Staff's study took into consideration the nearby elementary, middle and private school and found that La Pat is extremely impacted with parked vehicles. Mr. Nguyen was notified that the parking in front of his home is public parking and the elimination of parking restrictions would only further impact

parking in the area; thus, not be in the best interest of the community.

RECOMMENDATION Staff's Recommendation was for the Commission to deny the request for parking restrictions on the south side of Humboldt Avenue for a distance of 28 feet of the driveway at 6502 Humboldt Avenue.

Chairman Hamade questioned the red zone in the area and Mr. Ozaeta explained that it is timed parking restrictions during school hours. These parking restrictions resulted due from vendors using this area during school hours which would impact the traffic and lead to congestion in the area.

Phong Xuan Nguyen, 6502 Humboldt Avenue, spoke in favor of the parking restrictions because it is difficult for him and his family to back out of the driveway due to limited visibility and his trash cannot be serviced when vehicles are parked in front of his home.

Joseph Dinh, 13955 La Pat Place, spoke in opposition of parking restrictions because it allows for additional parking, which is in needed in the area. He suggested Mr. Nguyen's trash to be placed on the corner.

Chairman Hamade suggested four feet of red curb markings on each side of the driveway for both neighbors to place their trash and the remaining 20 feet of restrictions would still allow for one parking space.

Commissioner Robbins questioned Mr. Nguyen's access to Edwards Street from his property, as an alternative where he could place his solid waste containers. Mr. Nguyen explained he does not want to block the corner of the street. Commissioner Robbins stated that solid waste pickup runs along that street on Tuesdays and it would not further impact traffic.

Chairman Hamade reiterated that the four feet would alleviate the trash issue.

Commissioner Robbins clarified that Mr. Nguyen's main concern is that vehicles block his driveway. The police department is now aware of the situation and can enforce and patrol the area.

Vice Chairman Fisher observed the area and found that the problem is the traffic coming from Edwards into the

tract, not the parking at subject location. She also did not find a problem with backing out of Mr. Nguyen's driveway. There is a need for parking in the area and when you live in a school area, this is something you have to deal with.

Chairman Hamade reiterated the four feet of restrictions to alleviate the problem. Both neighbors would be safe and there would not be an elimination of parking.

Commissioner Robbins stated that approving four feet of restrictions here would result in the neighbors then asking for similar restrictions.

Mr. Ozaeta clarified that the purpose of parking restrictions is for safety.

Discussion ensued among the Commission.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Fisher moved to approve staff's recommendation; to deny the Request for Parking Restrictions at 6502 Humboldt Avenue, seconded by Commissioner Robbins.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 3-1 vote, with Chairman Hamade abstaining and Commissioner Nguyen being absent.

T.C. 82-107 Springdale Street

The third item for discussion was T.C. 82-107, Installation of Parking Restrictions on the west side and east side of Springdale Street at Iroquois Road.

Mr. Ozaeta directed attention to Exhibit A, an aerial photograph, to illustrate the intersection of Springdale Street and Iroquois Road.

During the budget season last year, the Mayor and City Council allocated funds to fund the installation of a new traffic signal at subject location. This location was ranked number one on the traffic priority list of seven for the number of warrants being met for an installation.

Corporal Lauderback commented on the high volume of traffic on Springdale Street in the morning. One random day last year, with a speed limit posting of 35 mph, they wrote over 30 speeding citations during a speed operation in a two hour period. The citations were not issued until the vehicles reached a speed of 50 mph or greater. Two or three officers patrol this street daily due to the high volume

of motorists traveling from the City of Garden Grove to Westminster.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that the new traffic signal design will require new lane configurations and additional parking restrictions. The first parking restrictions is based on Municipal Code 10.44.040 which allows installation of parking restrictions on the approach to a signalized intersection. A distance of 20 feet will be installed on the approaches totaling an additional 60 feet of parking restrictions. The new installation of a left turn pocket will push the lanes out requiring curbside parking to be eliminated on both sides of Springdale Street, north and south of Iroquois Road. Staff considered smaller left turn pockets due to the value of parking in the City; however, a reduction would only store two vehicles, resulting in an overflow. A shorter alternative would be 80 rather than 100 feet of markings.

Staff brought before the Commission that the installation of the new traffic signal will require parking restrictions at subject location and parking will need to be eliminated in front of six homes on Springdale Street. This new traffic signal will help the community and safety of pedestrians; conversely, there will be an increase in noise due to the screeching of brakes.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION

Staff's Recommendation was for the Commission to approve the installation of parking restrictions on the west side and east side of Springdale Street at Iroquois Road.

Chairman Hamade questioned if the speed limit is still 35 mph and Mr. Ozaeta explained it is.

Curtis Myers, 13381 Springdale Street, spoke in opposition of parking restrictions because this would eliminate parking for all three of his vehicles and his neighbors' vehicles as well. He does not have a driveway and cannot store his vehicles in his two car garage due to motorcycles and storage. He believes that when the new traffic signal is installed and the light is green, this would promote vehicles to travel faster. The hanging blinking light used to help reduce speed. He believes he will no longer enjoy his home and the removal of parking will affect the value of his home for resale.

Chairman Hamade explained the main concern is safety, not the elimination of parking.

Mr. Myers stated he likes the idea of the traffic signal light, but is it feasible to not add the left turn lanes; therefore, there would not be any changes to the lanes and parking.

Mr. Ozaeta elaborated that Mr. Myers was referring to the split phase operation which is typically used on side streets. They are not installed on a main corridor because it would cause a lot of delay.

Commissioner Robbins was not comfortable with vehicles being delayed in making their turns while vehicles behind them are traveling at high speeds. Secondly, Council had approved the new traffic signal.

Mr. Myers was concerned that he was only notified of this subject matter last week, he thought he was coming to learn rather than vote on the issue. He would have brought his neighbors to speak in opposition with him.

Mr. Ozaeta explained it is the business of the City to maintain safety and improvements. The installation of the traffic signal went directly to Council for funding and is not left to the general public due to safety being the priority.

Chairman Hamade informed Mr. Myers that staff had studied the area and safety takes precedent over the elimination of parking spaces.

Mr. Ozaeta elaborated on their study as to how they calculated the additional footage necessary at subject location.

MOTION

Commissioner Cruz moved to approve staff's recommendation; to install parking restrictions on the west side and east side of Springdale Street at Iroquois Road, seconded by Commissioner Robbins.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Nguyen being absent.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no "New Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

INFORMATION & REPORTS

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ORAL

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no "Oral Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

WRITTEN

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ITEMS

COMMISSIONERS

MAY WISH TO

DISCUSS

Vice Chairman Fisher received a complaint from a resident who resides on Church Street due to many vehicles parking in front of their home. She believes one of the residents may be operating a business out of their home.

Mr. Ozaeta will forward the inquiry to the proper Code Enforcement Officer for investigation.

ITEMS STAFF MAY

WISH TO DISCUSS

Ms. Johnson provided updates on the appointment of Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef
Public Works Director/City Engineer



By: Veronica Johnson
Secretary